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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): WYETH HOLDINGS CORPORATION [US/US]; Five Girarda Farms, Madison, NJ 07940 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): FARLEY, John, Erwin [US/US]; 49 Evandale Road, Rochester, NY 14618 (US). HOIETH, Susan, Kay [US/US]; 17 Coe Farm Road, Suffern, NY 10901 (US).

(74) Agent: BRAZIL, Bill, T.; Wyeth, Patent Law Department, Five Girarda Farms, Madison, NJ 07940 (US).

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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

— as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

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— with international search report
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS FOR INCREASING NEISSERIA PROTEIN EXPRESSION

(57) Abstract: The present invention broadly relates to polynucleotide sequences encoding porin polypeptides of Neisseria. More particularly, the invention relates to nucleic acid sequence mutations in polynucleotides encoding PorA polypeptides of Neisseria meningitidis, wherein these sequence mutations result in increased expression levels of PorA polypeptides.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US2004/000800

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C12N15/31 C12N15/67 C12N15/70 C07K14/22 A61K39/095

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C12N C07K A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, EMBL, WPI Data, BIOSIS, EMBASE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A X	MARIAGRAZIA PIZZA ET AL.: "Identification of vaccine candidates against Serogroup B Meningococcus by whole-genome sequencing" SCIENCE, vol. 287, no. 5459, 10 March 2000 (2000-03-10), pages 1816-1820, XP002293447 & DATABASE EMBL Accession number AF226350 15 March 2000 (2000-03-15), PIZZA, M. ET AL.: "Neisseria meningitidis strain NGH15 PorA precursor (porA) gene, complete cds." the whole document	54, 57-60, 72, 75-78, 81,84-87 -/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Montero Lopez, B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US2004/000800

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	& DATABASE EMBL Accession number AF226339 15 March 2000 (2000-03-15), PIZZA, M. ET AL.: "Neisseria meningitidis strain BZ83- PorA precursor (porA) gene, complete cds." the whole document	45-47, 49-51
A	VAN DER ENDE A ET AL: "Multiple mechanisms of phase variation of PorA in Neisseria meningitidis." INFECTION AND IMMUNITY. DEC 2000, vol. 68, no. 12, December 2000 (2000-12), pages 6685-6690, XP002293448 ISSN: 0019-9567 abstract page 6689, left-hand column, paragraph 3 - page 6690, left-hand column, paragraph 1	1, 3, 5, 7, 9-26, 29-39, 44-87, 96-98, 101, 102

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**Box No. I Nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence(s) (Continuation of item 1.b of the first sheet)**

1. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, the international search was carried out on the basis of:

a. type of material

- a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- in written format
 in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- contained in the international application as filed
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purpose of search

2. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

3. Additional comments:

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2004/000800

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
2. Claims Nos.: 2, 4, 6, 8, 27, 28, 40–43, 88–95, 99, 100, 103
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the Invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Although claims 88-97 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the composition.

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 2, 4, 6, 8, 27, 28, 40-43, 88-95, 99, 100, 103

Present claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 27, 28, 40-43, 88-95, 99, 100, 103 relate to polypeptides sequences SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 14, 16 and 25, encoded respectively by polynucleotide sequences SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 13, 15 and 24. However, in the sequence listing filed with the application sequences SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 14 and 16 are not encoded by sequences SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 13 and 15 and, furthermore, they do not have the amino acid Ile in residue 18 as claimed.

The sequence presented in the sequence listing as SEQ ID NO:25 is encoded by SEQ ID NO:24 and has the amino acid Ile in position 18. Therefore, the search has been limited to polynucleotide sequences SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 13, 15 and 24 wherein codon 18 is other than ATC and polypeptide sequence SEQ ID NO:25, wherein residue 18 is other than Ile.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.